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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/070,449	03/20/2002	Takayuki Nagayasu	220353US2PCT	7561
22850	7590	09/20/2005	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			MEEK, JACOB M	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2637		
DATE MAILED: 09/20/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/070,449	NAGAYASU, TAKAYUKI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Jacob Meek	2637

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 March 2002.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 - 4 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) 2 is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1,3,4 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 20 March 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/05, 3/02</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chiasson et al (US-5,546,429).

With regard to claim 1, Chiasson discloses a radio communication receiver comprising: analog signal generating units in number P (see figure 1, 150, 152 and column 3, lines 61 – 63), A/D converters in number P each of which converts the analog signal of the corresponding analog signal generating unit into digital signals (see figure 1, 158, 160 and column 4, lines 5 – 9); and a demodulator which demodulates the digital signal output by the corresponding A/D converter based on a desired method (see figure 1, 166, 168 and column 4, lines 22 – 31), the demodulator having soft-decision output equalizers in number P each of which makes a soft decision on the digital signal output by the A/D converter (see figure 1, 174 and column 4, lines 38 – 40 where this functionality is interpreted as equivalent); a combining unit which combines the results of the soft decisions by the soft decision output equalizers and outputs the result as a soft decision value (see figure 1, 184, and column 4,

lines 38 – 48); and an error correction unit which performs error correction processing with respect to the soft-decision value output by the combining unit (see figure 1, 202 and column 7, lines 8 – 18).

2. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Liu (US-6,137,824).

With regard to claim 3, Liu discloses a radio communication receiver comprising: analog signal generating units in number P (see figure 4, 303 and column 8, lines 39 – 49), A/D converters in number P each of which converts the analog signal of the corresponding analog signal generating unit into digital signals (see figure 4, 303 and column 8, lines 39 – 49); and a demodulator which demodulates the digital signal output by the corresponding A/D converter based on a desired method (see figure 4, 303 and column 8, lines 39 – 49), the demodulator, having soft-decision output equalizers in number P each of which makes a soft decision on the digital signal output by the A/D converter (see figure 4, 303 and column 8, lines 53 – 56 where this functionality is interpreted as equivalent); noise power estimating units in number P each of which estimates noise power of digital signal output by corresponding A/D converter (see figure 4, 304, 400, 307 and column 9, lines 40 – 51); a combining unit which divides the results of the soft decisions by corresponding noise power, combines the results of the division to output a soft decision value (see figure 4, 308, and column 9, lines 51 - 54); and an error correction unit which performs error correction processing with respect to the soft-decision value output by the combining unit (see figure 4, 308, and column 8, lines 49 – 52).

3. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Okanoue et al (US-5,701,333).

With regard to claim 4, Okanoue discloses a radio communication receiver comprising: analog signal generating units in number P, A/D converters in number P each of which converts the analog signal of the corresponding analog signal generating unit into digital signals (see figure 3, 56, 57 and column 3, lines 30 – 37); and a demodulator which demodulates the digital signal output by the corresponding A/D converter based on a desired method (see figure 3, 58, 66 and column 4, lines 22 – 31), the demodulator having soft-decision output equalizers in number P each of which makes a soft decision on the digital signal output by the A/D converter (see figure 3, 61 and column 6, lines 27 – 31 where this functionality is interpreted as equivalent) based on common reliability information that is fed back from error detector (see figure 3, 73 and column 6, lines 31 – 38); a combining unit which combines the results of the soft decisions by the soft decision output equalizers and outputs the result as a soft decision value (see figure 3, 71, and column 6, lines 21 – 26); and an error correction unit which performs error correction processing with respect to the soft-decision value output by the combining unit (see figure 3, 72 and column 6, lines 26 – 38) generates reliability information of decoded bits, and feeds back reliability to the soft decision equalizers (see column 6, lines 31 – 38).

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claim 2 is allowed.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The combination of elements and functions supporting the level adjustment in

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conjunction with operation of soft decision device does not appear to be anticipated or rendered obvious by prior art.

***Other Cited Prior Art***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Okanoue (US-5,127,025), Meidan (US-5,193,102), Rasky (US-5,265,122), Golden (US-6,038,272), Stewart (US-6,339,612), Jones (US-6,654,340), and Nokes (US-6,792,258) all disclose aspect of applicant's claimed invention..

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacob Meek whose telephone number is (571)272-3013. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Patel can be reached on (571)272-2988. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JMM  
9/16/05

*JMM/AM*

*J. C. Patel*

**JAY K. PATEL**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**